

PRIME MINISTER



*Prime Minister*  
*Brian Griffiths has no*  
*comments. Contact with these*  
*proposals subject to the views of*  
*colleagues? Rec 6 12/6*

You will know that I am preparing amendments to the Local Government and Housing Bill for several purposes connected with the community charge, the pooling of the Unified Business Rate and the new Revenue Support Grant systems. I would now like your policy agreement and drafting clearance for a further small addition which would:

- a. enable me to demand information from Community Charge Registration Officers (CCROs) for central Government purposes other than those directly connected with the 1988 Act, and for the CCRO to be under a duty to provide this information; and
- b. enable (but not compel) CCROs to release data on the register to other persons.

Both measures would be subject to the proviso that no information is to be released which reveals anything about individuals.

The provision is concerned with statistical information. I understand that registers are regarded by OPCS as a potentially invaluable source for the improvement of population estimates and projections and I see it as useful for monitoring the housing market. Local government want access mainly for planning and research purposes. Without the new measures my power to demand statistical information is insecure, and CCROs have no power to release statistics to officials in their own or other authorities I have consulted the local authority associations and I expect no opposition to the measure.

I am copying this minute to other members of E(LA), to John Wakeham and to Sir Robin Butler. It would be helpful to have comments by 19 May.

*PP* NR  
9 May 1989

(Approved by the Secretary of State  
and Signed in his Absence)



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COMPTON



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ABC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 May, 1989.

Dear Roger,

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING BILL**

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 9 May concerning a proposed addition to the Local Government and Housing Bill about Community Charge Registration Officers. Subject to the views of colleagues, the Prime Minister is content with this proposal.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of E(LA) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours  
Paul

Paul Gray

Roger Bright, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

M



*als*

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

23 May 1989

*NBAM  
AMG  
w/s*

*Dear Nick*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING BILL**

You copied to me your minute to the Prime Minister of 9 May seeking policy agreement and drafting clearance for a small addition to the Local Government and Housing Bill dealing with the release of information by Community Charge Registration Officers to the Government and to other persons. I have also seen the reply from the Prime Minister's Private Secretary conveying her agreement to what you proposed.

This is simply to confirm that I am content to convey drafting authority for the preparation of the necessary amendments.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA), John Belstead and Sir Robin Butler

*Yours  
John*

JOHN WAKEHAM

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

ccfu



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

From the Secretary of State for ~~Social Services~~ Health

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3EB

NRB

25 May 1989

RLB

WJ

Dear Nick,

I am writing to support your proposed addition to the Local Government and Housing Bill, which would:

- a. enable you to demand information from Community Charge Registration Officers (CCRO's) for central government purpose other than those directly connected with the 1988 Act, and for CCRO's to be under a duty to provide this information; and
- b. enable (but not compel) CCRO's to release data on the register to other persons.

The aggregated statistical information obtainable from CCRO's is potentially very useful to OPCS for preparation of local population estimates and projections. The OPCS figures are used extensively for distribution of resources among both local and health authorities, and any improvement of them will result in better targeting of expenditure.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister's Office, other members of E(LA), to John Wakeham and Sir Robin Butler.

*[Handwritten signature]*

KENNETH CLARKE